

Serial No.: 10/533,863
Group Art Unit No.: 1744

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush having a head and a toothbrush grip handle, the head having a base end at which the head is [being] connected [or connectable at its base end to a] to the toothbrush grip handle to thereby define a head-handle longitudinal direction, the head having a longitudinally opposite tip end and comprising three widthways adjacent, longitudinally extending sections from which bristles extend, being a middle section and a lateral section on each widthways side of the middle section, one or more section being resiliently flexibly connected or connectable to the grip handle, characterised in that:

the end of the middle section adjacent to the tip end of the head is integrally widthways enlarged relative to a longitudinally adjacent [the] part of the middle section longitudinally [adjacent] nearer to the handle to provide a bristle-carrying pad adjacent to the tip end of the head having a bristle carrying surface and which extends across the entire width of the toothbrush head adjacent to the tip end,

the middle section comprises an intermediate bristle-carrying pad, being a region of maximum width of the part of the middle section between the tip pad and the base end of the head,

with a first link region of the middle section between the tip pad and the intermediate pad being narrower in width than the [adjacent part of the] tip pad and the intermediate pad,

and a second link region of the section between the intermediate pad and the handle being narrower in width than the [adjacent part of the] intermediate pad,

there being only one intermediate pad, only one first link region and only one second link region, and

one or more of the middle or lateral sections being connected to the grip handle by an integral resiliently flexible neck.

2. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised by only three sections, being a middle section and two lateral sections.

3. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that two or more, of the middle section and lateral sections are resiliently flexibly connected to the grip handle so that the section may be resiliently bent out of a plane parallel to the longitudinal and width directions under the action of pressure on the bristles.

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Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to any one of claim 1 characterised in that in its longitudinal direction the tip pad has a length of [ca.] 10-50% of the toothbrush head between its base and tip ends.

6. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that the bristle carrying surface of the tip pad forms an angle of 180° - 160° with [the] a surface of the adjacent part of the [surface of the] first link region.

7. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that the tip pad extends longitudinally beyond the ends of the lateral sections remotest from the handle for a distance of [ca.] 15-30% of the length of the toothbrush head between its base end and tip end.

8. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush according to claim 1 characterised in that the intermediate pad has a length 20-40% of the length of the toothbrush head between the tip end and the base end of the head.

9. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that the intermediate pad is located so that 50% or more of its bristle face is in the longitudinal half of the head furthest from the tip end of the head.

10. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 9 characterised in that the intermediate pad is located so that all of its bristle face is in the longitudinal half of the head furthest from the tip end of the head.

11. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that the middle section comprises longitudinally sequentially a widthways narrow region extending from the base end of the head toward the tip end of the head from the direction of the handle to comprise the second link region and enlarging widthways at a place intermediate between the base of the head and the tip pad to form the intermediate pad, a widthways narrow region extending from the intermediate pad toward the tip end of the head from the direction of

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the handle to comprise the first link region, and integrally enlarging widthways adjacent to the tip end of the head to form such a tip pad.

12. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that the second link region is between the intermediate pad and the base end of the head.

13. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 characterised in that widthways adjacent sections are in contact allowing sliding relative movement of the sections.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim 1 [claim 15] characterised in that all of the sections are respectively connected to the grip handle by means of a respective flexible neck which extends between the base end of the of the section and an end of the grip handle which is closest to the section.

17. (Original) A toothbrush according to claim 16 characterised in that each section of the head is connected to the grip handle by a respective neck being an integral extension of the section toward the handle, and the neck has a length in the range 0.4 - 1.5 of the length of the head section.

18. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim 16 characterised in that [the widthways adjacent sides] the middle and lateral sections have widthways adjacent sides which taper in their widthways spacing so as to be spaced apart with an air gap between them at their ends closest to the handle, [but] such that [they, and/or the] middle and lateral sections [they are connected to] are in contact at their ends closest to the tip end.

19. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush according to claim 17 characterised by an elastomeric material between widthways adjacent parts of necks.

20. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush according to claim 1 [claim 14] characterised in that:

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all sections carry bristles and are integrally flexibly connected by a neck to the toothbrush handle,

the bristle carrying tip pad adjacent to the tip end of the head has a length of [ca.] 20-30% of the toothbrush head between its base and tip ends,

the tip pad extends longitudinally beyond the ends of the lateral sections remotest from the handle, and extends across the entire width of the toothbrush head adjacent to the tip end,

the middle section comprises a single intermediate bristle carrying pad being a region of maximum width of the part of the section between the tip pad and the base end of the head, from which tufts of bristles extend, and which is located entirely in the longitudinal half of the toothbrush head closest to the handle, and has a length of [ca.] 20-40% of the toothbrush head between its base and tip ends,

a first link region of the section between the tip pad and the intermediate pad is narrower in width than the adjacent part of the tip pad and the intermediate pad,

a second link region of the section between the intermediate pad and the neck is narrower in width than the adjacent part of the intermediate pad,

the bristle carrying surface of the tip pad forming an angle of 180° or less with the surface of the first link region.

21. (Original) A toothbrush according to claim 20 characterised in that the tip and intermediate pad are longitudinally separated by a distance 1 – 2cm between the centres of the tip and intermediate pads.

22. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 1 made of a fibre-reinforced plastics material.

23. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush [head] according to claim 22 made of polyester fibre-reinforced polypropylene.